

First Reading: Water from the Rock

Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Response to the Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice:

'Harden not your hearts'

Second Reading: Peace with God through Jesus

Romans 5:1-2.5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

"An unshaken conviction that God will come to our rescue"

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;

give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

The Gospel: The Samaritan at the well

John 4:5-15.19-26.39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied, 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you "Give me a drink", you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered, 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied, 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who

drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said, 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus, 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

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St Joseph's, Birtley

Reconciliation: 6.30 - 6.55pm Tuesdays & 11.30am - noon Thurs.

YMG: Wed 18 March, 7.30pm, Golf Club, Beetle Drive, Pie & Peas.

St Patrick's Day: Tues 17 March, 7.30pm, Parish Centre. Karaoke, Live Music, Bingo & Raffle. Admission free. All welcome.

Stations of the Cross: Each Thursday evening, 7pm.

Coffee and Conversation each Monday morning from 11.00am to 12.30pm in the club. We are looking for new volunteers to join us. If you would like to help, and at the same time make new friends, please come along. All warmly welcomed.

Autumn Fayre: Will be on 10 October. There will be a meeting for anyone willing to help on Monday 23 March at 2pm in the Parish Centre. We look forward to any new ideas & hope to see you then.

Bingo Party Night in aid of St Benet's School: Fri 24 April, 7pm, Parish Centre. Tickets £5 (including bingo games) from St Benet's School or the Parish Centre.

St John Boste, Oxclose

Confessions: 30 Minutes before Saturday Mass.

Rosary Group: Every other Tues at 11am from 3 March. If you are looking for additional prayers during Lent saying the rosary would be a great choice. More members of the group are much needed.

Stations of the Cross every Wednesday at 6:30pm followed by Mass at 7pm. Everyone very welcome.

Friday Coffee Morning: Every week after 9.30am Mass.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw

Divine Office: 15 mins before daily Mass or Communion Service.

Monday: 7.30pm, **Woman's Guild** in the Parish Centre. New members welcome.

Tuesday: 7.30pm, **Bingo** in the Parish Centre, all welcome.

Wednesday: 12 noon, **Stations of the Cross**, then a soup lunch

Friday: 9am - 3pm, **Adoration.**

Wishing Well: We have raised £1000 from the Wishing Well collection. A cheque will be presented to Gill representing the Safewater Trust on Sunday March 15. Gill will be demonstrating the filters to us in the coffee room afterwards. Please come along to find out more about the work which our donations help to fund.

Sacristy Team: We are looking for volunteers to form a Sacristy Team primarily to help set up the Church for Mass on Sundays and on other occasions as necessary. Instruction will be given. If you are interested please speak to Fr Mark.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington

Thursday Drop In: Cancelled.

Cleaning: Group 1.

CAFOD Well: Thanks for all donations placed in the well.

Stations of the Cross: Sunday 4pm during Lent.

St Bede's, Usworth

Monday: 2.00pm, **Ladies Club** (Lindisfarne Room)

Tuesday: 10am, 24th March **Meditation Group** (at Our Lady's Queen of Peace, Penshaw)

Tuesday: 6 - 6.45pm, **Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament & Confessions**

7.30pm, **Coffee Evening** (Lindisfarne Room)

Thursday: 7pm, **Stations of the Cross**

Lenten Alms: Box at back of church. Donations to St Cuthbert's Care.

Family Fast: Please remember to return your envelopes.

Piety Stall this weekend in the church porch—Mother's Day cards, Easter cards and other religious items now available.

St Robert's School

Adoration: Thursday 10am - 3pm. Holy Mass/Service 11.20am.

General Information

Easter Music: Choir Practice in preparation for Easter celebrations will be at Our Lady's Washington Village on Sunday after Stations of the Cross. We invite partnership parish members to join us as we prepare. Do come along and help us to make this a BIG SING.

Stations of the Cross: Wednesdays during Lent at 12 noon at Our Lady Queen of Peace, followed by a soup lunch. Money raised for 'Daft as a Brush' hospital transport.

The Event: Wed 18 March, 6:00pm – 7:30pm. St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Mill Ln, Hebburn NE31 2ET. The Event is a monthly event held at the school for all young people in the Diocese from Years 5, 6, 7 and 8. The EVENT is free of charge and complimentary food and refreshments are provided afterwards so the young people can get to know others from different schools across the Diocese. For further details or to reserve your place (numbers needed for catering purposes), contact Andrew Young, tel: 0191 428 2700 or email: younga@stjosephs.uk.net.

The God who speaks: Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible. On Saturday 21 March 2020 at St. John Vianney Church, Newcastle. An opportunity for people to come together to explore this resource & learn how to lead groups who will be using it after Easter. Please contact adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk to register your interest.

Craft Stall in aid of Manzini Youth Care: St. Bede Sat 21 March, 5pm & Sun 22 March, 8.30am; OLQP Sun 22 March, 10am; St John Sun 29 March, 9.30am & OBLI Sun 29 March, 11am & 6pm. Mothers Day & Easter Gifts available.

Walking retreat days, with Minsteracres Retreat Team: Wed 25 March, 10am – 4pm (lunch included): A contemplative response to the climate crisis, with Patrick Woodhouse. A day to reflect on the extent of the climate crisis and its effects on us, and how, as people of faith, we might shape our response to it. For more information

call us on 01434 673248.

The Source: Wed 1 April. The Source takes place at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, from 7– 8.45pm. This is a chance for Praise and Worship, Prayer, Live Music, Faith Sharing, Socialising and Refreshments. The Source is aimed at young people in Year 9 and above, but all are welcome! Visit YMT website for more information.

Romero Pilgrimage to Holy Island: To coincide with the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of St Oscar Romero (24 March 2020) a one-day pilgrimage to Holy Island is taking place on Sat 4 April. A coach has been booked with 3 pick-up points: 7:30am, St Michael's, 7:45am Our Blessed Lady Immaculate & 8:00am St Joseph's. Seating is limited so please email sj23it@gmail.com to book. Subsidised price £10, under 16s free. If you are making your own way there you will need to be on Holy Island by 10.30am (safe crossing). Welcome and Prayer will begin in the Anglican Parish Church of Mary the Virgin at 11am.

Credit Union: The Credit Union Service Point is open at St John Boste on Fridays at 10:30am. The OBLI Credit union has been moved from Thurs 2-3pm in the parish room to Thurs 11am—12 noon (towards the end of the coffee morning) in the Emmaus room. This change of time and venue will commence on Thurs 27 March.

Seder Meal: OBLI Tuesday 7 April 7pm in The Parish Room. Tickets on sale soon. Adults £5, accompanied child £1.

Save the Date!! May 15. 7—11pm at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Birtley'. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day, we are holding a 40's evening with entertainment provided by The Voice of Vintage. Tickets £5. If enough demand, transport can be provided.

National Re-dedication to Our Lady's Dowry:

Feast of the Annunciation, Wed 25 March 7pm Benedict Partnership Mass at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington. Singers and Musicians from all choirs / music groups in the Partnership are invited to join together to lead the music at this Mass. There will be a practice at 5.30pm before the Mass.

Family Mass, Sun 29 March 11am at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, led by children from St Joseph's School, Washington followed by **the Angelus Promise at 12noon**, a personal re-dedication as the Dowry of Mary. At this time we will join with all our Cathedrals, parishes & those at home taking part in this consecration. Please come along and make this a special day in honour of Our Lady.

Coronavirus: Principle measures are:

- The exchange of the sign of peace at Mass is suspended.
- Giving the Precious Blood to the people at Mass is suspended.
- Holy Water to be removed from stoups.
- Holy Communion to be given in the hand only.
- Clergy & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should wash/sanitise their hands before & after distributing communion. We recognise that for some of you receiving the Sacred Host on your tongue is a very important devotion and sign of respect to the Blessed Sacrament. We ask you to bear with this temporary suspension. Perhaps these words can help you reflect on this: 'Our God has become so small that our very hands can hold him, like that manger in Bethlehem. May we never fail to place ourselves within his hands, as he places himself within ours'. (*Excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI, "The Blessing of Christmas", Chp 3: The Tree of Life*)

Sick List

Due to GDPR we now need written consent to announce verbally, or publish in writing, anyone who is requesting prayers to be said for them. Forms to be completed are available at back of each church.

Charity Registration Number: 1143450

Mass Times & Intentions — Week Beginning Monday 16 March 2020			
Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 16 March	St Bede's	09.05	Word & Holy Communion
	St John Boste	09.15	Word & Holy Communion (EM)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	09.15	Word & Holy Communion
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	13.15	Funeral Service: Carol Bell
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	18.00	Rolfe Mitchinson
Tuesday 17 March	St John Boste	09.15	Word & Holy Communion (TJ)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	12.00	Michael Farrell
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	19.00	Word & Holy Communion
	St Joseph's	19.00	Ossie Hogg
	St Bede's	19.00	John Liddle
Wednesday 18 March	St Bede's	09.05	Word & Holy Communion
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	09.15	Word & Holy Communion
	St Joseph's	09.15	Thanks to St Martha (St Benet's School)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	15.15	Funeral Service: Rachel Bright , Saltwell Crem
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	19.00	Word & Holy Communion
	St John Boste	19.00	Anne Cantwell
Thursday 19 March	St Bede's	09.05	Word & Holy Communion
	St John Boste	09.15	Word & Holy Communion (TY)
	St Joseph's	09.15	Edmund & Rosanna Booth (St Joseph's Juniors)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10.00	Joan Stobbs
	St Joseph's	10.30	Rosie Hall (St Joseph's Infants)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11.00	Requiem Mass: Allan David Roberts
Friday 20 March	St Joseph's	09.15	Joe Tracey
	St Bede's	09.15	90th Birthday (VG)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	09.15	Word & Holy Communion
	St John Boste	09.30	In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	19.00	Word & Holy Communion
Saturday 21 March	Our Lady Queen of Peace	09.00	Word & Holy Communion
	St Bede's	09.05	Word & Holy Communion
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	09.15	Tony Madden
	St John Boste	10.00	Word & Holy Communion
Sunday 22 March - 4th Sunday of Lent			
Vigil	St Bede's	17.00	Stephen Willey (sick)
	St Joseph's	18.00	Alex Gilfillan
Sunday 22 March	St Bede's	08.30	Rita Young
	St John Boste	09.30	Keith Shannon
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10.00	Michael McMonigle
	St Joseph's	10.00	Our Parish Family
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11.00	Patrick Naughton
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	18.00	Bill & Mary O'Hara

Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph's, Birtley

Incorporating:

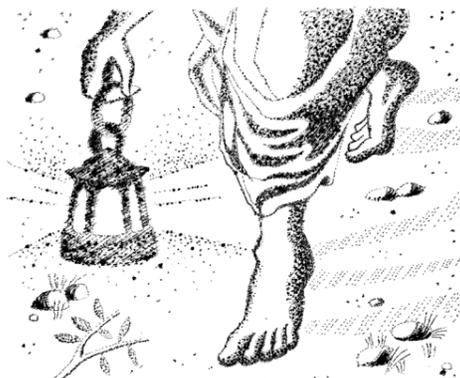
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw;
St Bede's, Usworth; St John Boste, Oxclose; St Joseph's, Birtley

Administrator: Audrey Huntley 0191 4163583 sj23office01@gmail.com

In the Partnership of Benedict Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Penshaw,
Sacriston, Washington

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT - 14/15 MARCH 2020, YR. A			
Vigil	St Bede's	17.00	Clare Bottoms
	St Joseph's	18.00	Our Parish Family
Sunday 15 March	St Bede's	08.30	Our Parish Family
	St John Boste	09.30	Alec, Lena & Peter Morrison
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10.00	Tony Feeley
	St Joseph's	10.00	Deceased Members of the Hogan Family
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11.00	Jack & Vera Lawless & son Peter
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	18.00	Betty Smith (nee Sacco)

In this lively dialogue Jesus almost seems to be teasing the Samaritan woman, deliberately leading her into misunderstanding about what he means by living water or about the conditions of worship. Nothing daunted, she gives as good as she gets, replying with a cheeky series of sarcastic questions, gradually edging nearer to the truth: an open-minded Jew – greater than our father Jacob – a prophet – and finally acknowledging him as the Messiah. With its serious message it is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people as they are, and of his openness with women. On these last three Sundays of Lent before Palm Sunday in Cycle A, the Church lays before us the three great symbols of the baptisms which will be celebrated at Easter. This concerns not only those who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil, but all those who are invited to renew our baptismal promise and commitment at Easter. By so doing we enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink (the teaching given to the Samaritan woman), into the light which enlightens the blind (the Cure of the Man Born Blind) and true life (the Raising of Lazarus).



What does Jesus really mean by 'living water'? What is the real life that God gives us?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Did you know our Parishes are online?! As well as our website, washingtoncatholic.org.uk, you can find regular prayers, reflections and images on our social media pages throughout the liturgical year. Use @ParishStJohn23 on Twitter and search for "Parish of St John XXIII" on Facebook. If you have any issues, comments, suggestions, or would like to support this work, please email: SJ23Social@disciples.com.

St Joseph's parish website www.stjosephsbirtley.co.uk

Fr Jim O'Keefe	0191 416 3805	Deacon Frank O'Neill	0779 115 5845
Fr Mark Millward	0191 416 3583	Deacon Peter Lavery	0730 505 9297
Fr Martin Wheaton	0191 410 2923	Deacon Chas Ferguson	0783 663 1963
		Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419